

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 01141 01 OF 02 161530Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /005 W
-----100367 161614Z /47 R
P 181603Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 644

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANTANANARIVO 1141

STADIS////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, MA, US
SUBJ: NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH MADAGASCAR

REF: STATE 152709

1. SUMMARY: I WOULD PREFER TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT BASIC POSITION ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH MADAGASCAR WHILE WE TRY OUT SOME OF ACTIONS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED. SHOULD DEPARTMENT DECIDE THAT A CHANGE OF POSITION IS APPROPRIATE THEN I THINK WE SHOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO THE NOMINATION OF AN AMBASSADOR WITHOUT ANY PRIOR MANEUVERING OR ATTEMPTS AT NEGOTIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED STALEMATE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH MADAGASCAR. ALSO APPRECIATE FACT THAT EMBASSY'S VIEWS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FULLY JUDGING FROM LIST OF REFERENCES CITED IN REFTEL.

3. WHILE I CAN UNDERSTAND ARGUMENT FOR A CHANGE OF POSITION I WOULD PREFER FIRST TO SEE US TAKE SOME OF THE SMALLER STEPS WE HAVE SUGGESTED, WHICH ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OUR PRESENT POLICY BUT WHICH WOULD SHOW DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR (DRM) THAT WE ARE WELL DISPOSED AND READY TO ENTERTAIN BETTER RELATIONS. I REFER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANTANA 01141 01 OF 02 161530Z

TO A) A SPECIAL ENVOY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN, B) THE OFFER OF A PL 480 TITLE I RICE SALE, AND C) THE RENEMENT OF OUR OFFER FOR A NASA SETTLEMENT.

IDEA OF A SPECIAL ENVOY WAS APPARENTLY SHUNTED ASIDE LAST YEAR WHEN SEVERAL AF/E MAINLAND POSTS PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE SUCH AN ENVOY VISIT THEIR COUNTRIES. THESE OBJECTIONS COULD BE BY-PASSED BY HAVING THE ENVOY COME ONLY TO THE AFRICAN ISLAND STATES OF

THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN THE SEYCHELLES SINCE
IDEA WAS FIRST BROACHED MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED EMBASSY NAIROBI'S
OBJECTION TO SUCH AN ENVOY GOING TO VICTORIA.

B) EVEN IF THERE IS NO TITLE I RICE AVAILABLE FOR FY 78 IT
WOULD STILL MAKE A GOOD EFFECT FOR ME TO OFFER NOW OR VERY SOON
TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF A SALE IN FY 79. REAL SHORTAGE IS
EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER AND KNOWLEDGE OF AVAILABILITY OF
CONCESSIONAL US RICE COULD GREATLY RELIEVE CONCERNS OF DRM WITH
GOOD EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I THEREFORE HOPE I WILL GET
INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SCORE SOON.

C). I UNDERSTAND FROM STATE 131952 THAT MY LIST FROM NASA, SPECIFYING
WHAT SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT WE WANT TO RETRIEVE AND WHAT WILL GO
TO DRM IS STILL IN THE WORKS. IF I PRESENT THIS LIST PROPERLY
AND OTHER FACTORS ARE FAVORABLE IT MIGHT JUST BREAK THE NASA LOGJAM,
AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT OF PERMITTING AN INSPECTION.

4. OF THE THREE ACTIONS LISTED ABOVE I CONSIDER THE TITLE I SALE
OFFER AND THE NASA LIST TO BE THE POTENTIALLY MOST USEFUL AND
FEASIBLE. INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS MIGHT BE A BIT MORE COMPLICATED
BECAUSE OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR, ON WHICH I MAY NOT
BE UP TO DATE, AND BECAUSE OF FRENCH ROLE IN THIS AREA COMBINED
WITH MIXED FEELINGS RECENTLY PRODUCED IN REGION BY FRANCE'S
ACTION IN SHABA AND ITS REPORTED ROLE IN COMORIAN CHANGE OF
GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 01141 02 OF 02 161543Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /005 W
-----100569 161612Z /47

P 161603Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 645

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANTANANARIVO 1141

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

5. HAVING STATED MY PREFERENCE FOR THIS MORE MODEST COURSE OF
ACTION, I MUST SAY THAT MY PREFERENCE IS NOT ALL THAT STRONG.
PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE WE WITHDREW LAST AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATION
COULD BE CITED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR A BASIC CHANGE OF POSITION PLUS
FACT THAT IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF WITHDRAWAL, EXPULSION OF AMERICAN

PERSONNEL, HAS NOT BEEN REPEATED. MY MAIN CONCERN WITH A BASIC CHANGE OF POSITION ON OUR PART WOULD BE THAT IT MIGHT LEAD DRM TO BELIEVE AND TO BROADCAST FACT THAT WE HAD FINALLY SEEN THE CORRECTNESS OF THE DRM POSITION ON NASA, PERSONNEL EXPULSION, ETC. A SECONDARY CONCERN WOULD BE POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION OF OUR ACTION AS PAYMENT FOR RELEASE OF LAPPEMAN. THESE TWO ASPECTS COULD CAST SHADOW ON ANY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS REACHED IN THIS MANNER AND MAKE THE DRM EVER HARDER TO DEAL WITH THAN IN THE PAST. CONVERSELY A NORMALIZATION STEMMING FROM A GENUINE MUTUAL EFFORT OR RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS WOULD SEEM MORE GENUINE AND LASTING.

6. IF DEPARTMENT SHOULD DECIDE ON A BASIC CHANGE OF POSITION THEN I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO GO AHEAD AND INFORM DRM THAT GIVEN PASSAGE OF TIME WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO NOMINATE AN AMBASSADOR IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WILL FACILITATE SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. TO TAKE EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO APPROACHES SUGGESTED REFTEL A) WOULD RISK REBUFF OR FAILURE, LEAVING US WORSE OFF THAN NOW, B) WOULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE SUBSTANCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANTANA 01141 02 OF 02 161543Z

OUR DIFFERENCES WHICH ARE UNCOMPLICATED AND RELATIVELY MINOR- A MATTER OF \$200,000 AT MOST ON NASA- AND WHOSE IMPORTANCE IS RATHER AS AN INDICATOR OF THE DRM'S ATTITUDE; C) MIGHT GIVE THE DRM AN EXAGGERATED IDEA OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO US; AND D) TEND TO DIGNIFY THE DRM'S STAND ON THE MATTERS WHICH SEPARATE US AND WHICH WE CONSIDER UNJUSTIFIED. TO THOSE MALAGASY AND THIRD COUNTRY OBSERVERS WHO CONSIDER OUT STANDOFFISHNESS OF THE PAST THREE YEARS PETTY, AND THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW, SUCH APPARENT GIVE AND TAKE BARGAINING WOULD ONLY PROLONG THE IMPRESSION.

7. THESE ARE MY THOUGHTS AS THE WEEK ENDS. I MAY HAVE FURTHER COMMENTS AFTER REFLECTION AND AFTER DISCUSSION WITH MY STAFF BUT I WANTED TO GET THESE PERSONAL VIEWS IN WITHOUT DELAY.

8. ON SUBJECT OF NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE, I THOUGHT OURS OF LAST YEAR WAS PRETTY WARM AND IT WAS BARELY ACKNOWLEDGED AND NOT AT ALL PUBLICIZED. THAT IS REASON MY LATEST SUGGESTED TEXT IS SOMEWHAT SHORTER. I WOULD PREFER TO STICK TO THAT AND NOT RUSH INTO ANY DECISION BECAUSE OF ADVENT OF NATIONAL DAY. ANY SUBSTANTIVE MEASURES WE DECIDE TO TAKE IN THE FUTURE CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN WITH NO INTRODUCTION.
BARRETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANTANA01141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0277
Format: TEL
From: ANTANANARIVO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780646/aaaabodt.tel
Line Count: 162
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b0bc486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 152709
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2306289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH MADAGASCAR
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, MA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b0bc486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014